

1. A communications adapter for facilitating electronic communications with an electronic device wherein the adapter is remotely reprogrammable by a provider computer through a communications network, the adapter comprising:

5           a communications port for electronically connecting the adapter to the electronic device;  
          communications hardware for communicating with the provider computer through the communications network;  
          a processor; and  
          memory programmed to cause the adapter to receive new data sent by the provider  
10           computer via the communications network, wherein the new data comprises device instructions for the processor for communicating with the electronic device through the communications port.

15       2. The adapter as defined in claim 1 wherein the communications network is a pager network.

3. The adapter as defined in claim 1 wherein the communications network is a global communications network.

20       4. The adapter as defined in claim 1 wherein the communications network is a cellular network.

5. The adapter as defined in claim 1 wherein the new data comprises a translator that includes an object representation of the electronic device.

25       6. The adapter as defined in claim 1 wherein the new data comprises a translator that includes a functional representation of the electronic device.

30       7. The adapter as defined in claim 1 wherein the memory is further programmed to cause the adapter to identify the electronic device and to further send an identification of the electronic device to the provider computer via the communications network.

8. A communications adapter for facilitating electronic communications with an electronic device having an external communications port wherein the adapter is remotely reprogrammable by a provider computer through a communications network, the adapter comprising:

5           a communications port for electronically connecting the adapter to the external  
             communications port of the electronic device;  
             communications hardware for communicating with the provider computer through the  
             communications network, wherein the communications pathway between the  
             communications hardware and the provider computer includes a wireless link;  
10          a processor; and  
             memory programmed with instructions to cause the adapter to receive new  
             instructions sent by the provider computer through the communications  
             network, wherein the new instructions are executable by the processor for  
             communicating with the electronic device through the communications port  
15          without altering any program code on the electronic device.

9. The adapter as defined in claim 8 wherein the communications network is a pager network.

20   10. The adapter as defined in claim 9 wherein the new instructions include an object representation of the electronic device.

11. The adapter as defined in claim 9 wherein the new instructions include a functional representation of the electronic device.

25   12. The adapter as defined in claim 9 wherein the memory is further programmed with instructions to cause the adapter to identify the electronic device and to further send an identification of the electronic device to the provider computer via the communications network.

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13. A method for facilitating electronic communications with an electronic device comprising:

connecting a communications adapter to an external communications port of the electronic device, wherein the communications adapter comprises:

5 a communications port for electronically connecting the adapter to the electronic device;

communications hardware for communicating with a provider computer through a communications network;

a processor; and

10 memory;

establishing communications with the provider computer through the communications network;

receiving new instructions from the provider computer through the communications network, wherein the instructions are executable by the processor;

15 storing the new instructions in the memory of the adapter; and

communicating with the electronic device using the new instructions.

14. The method as defined in claim 13 wherein the communications network is a pager network.

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15. A communications adapter for facilitating electronic communications with an electronic device wherein the adapter is remotely reprogrammable by a provider computer through a communications network, the adapter comprising:

means for communicating with the electronic device;

25 means for processing;

means for storing data;

means for communicating with the provider computer through the communications network; and

30 means for causing the adapter to receive new instructions sent by the provider computer through the communications network, wherein the new instructions are executable by the means for processing for communicating with the electronic device without altering any program code on the electronic device.